POL 14 VIETS (1387)

Department of State TELEGRAM

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Saigon 21062 to 10-20-69

CONFIDENTIAL 537

EXCISE

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ACTION EA 15

INFO OCT 01,CIAE 00,DODE 00,PM 05,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,
P 03,RSC 01,PRS 01,SS 20,USIA 12,UPW 01,AID 28,RSR 01,/110 W
104162

R 201115Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2461
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DANANG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21062

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PARIS FOR VN MISSION

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DENIES RUMORS HE SEEKS TO POSTPONE 1970 SENATE ELECTIONS

b-1
EC

REF: A. SAIGON 20190

1. VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED OCTOBER 19 THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAD PUBLICALLY DENIED RUMORS THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO POSTPONE ELECTION OF HALF OF THE 60 SENATE SEATS SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1970. PRESIDENT MADE STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO A NEWSMAN'S QUESTION WHILE ON INSPECTION TRIP TO BA XUYEN PROVINCE, OCTOBER 8.

2. [redacted] RECEIVED REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HOPED TO OBTAIN A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT POSTPONEMENT OF MID-TERM ELECTIONS UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF HIS OWN TERM IN 1971 IN ORDER TO FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME TROUBLESOME LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES, SUCH AS TRAN NGOC CHAU AND HO HUU TUONG, OR PRO-COALITION POLITICIANS GAINING FOOTHOLD IN THE SENATE.
BUNKER

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